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8

Application Number	10/068,220
Filing Date	02/06/2002
First Named Inventor	Joseph E. Haring
Group Art Unit	3679
Examiner Name	Schiffman, Jori

Attorney Docket Number

HARINGPAT3

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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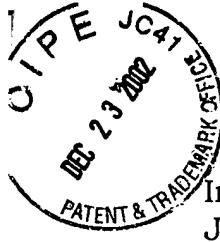
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Joseph E. Haring
For: TELESCOPIC NUT
Application number: 10/068,220
Filed: 02/06/2002
GAU: 3679
Examiner: Schiffman, Jori

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D. C. 2023

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Responsive to the restriction requirement mailed 11/25/2002,

Applicant responds as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. 1. A nut assembly for joining two or more workpieces together comprising;
 2. a first fastener member having a first generally cylindrical inner bore provided with a first set of threads therein,
 4. a second fastener member provided with a second set of threads on an exterior surface thereof for threadable engagement with said first set of threads, said second fastener member having a second generally cylindrical inner bore provided with a third set of threads therein,
 8. said first set of threads, said second set of threads and said third set of threads all being cut in the same direction,
 10. whereby as a threaded member having a thread/shank interface is threadably advanced into said third [second] set of threads of said second

12 fastener member, said third set of threads of said second fastener member
13 contact [contacts] said thread/shank interface of said threaded member, with
14 further relative advancement rotation between said first fastener member and
15 said second fastener member causing said first fastener member to be
16 advanced past said thread/shank interface of said threaded member and
17 contact a said workpiece adjacent said nut assembly.

1 13. A fastener as set forth in claim 10 wherein said workpiece further
2 comprises [comprising] at least two coplanar members each having an opening,
3 each said opening coaxially aligned, with said shank extending through both
4 openings and terminating therebeyond so that when said fastener is threaded
5 onto said threaded bolt or other threaded member, said generally cylindrical
6 member first contacts said shank, with additional torque applied to said
7 fastener member or said threaded bolt or other threaded member breaking said
8 attachment so that said fastener member may be threaded onto said cylindrical
9 member to abut an adjacent said coplanar member.

1 14. A method for fastening adjoining members wherein a [ensuring that the]
2 shank of a threaded article passes slightly beyond said adjoining members [is
3 positioned at and passed through the contact plane of adjoining members]
4 comprising the steps of:
5 1) threadably positioning a sleeve having exterior threads and interior
6 threads within a threaded bore of a fastening member,

7 2) threadably advancing said sleeve onto said article until said sleeve
8 abuts a thread/shank interface of said threaded article, halting advancement
9 of said sleeve onto said article,
10 3) continuing to threadably advance said fastening member on said
11 sleeve until said fastening member is sufficiently tightened against [contacts]
12 an adjacent one of said adjoining members.

Please add the following new claims to the case.

1 19. A nut assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first fastener member
2 is fixedly attached to an adjacent one of said workpieces, with rotation of said
3 threaded member advancing said second fastener member to said
4 thread/shank interface, with further rotation of said threaded member
5 tightening said threaded member and compressing said workpieces together.

1 20. A fastener as set forth in claim 7 wherein said fastener member is affixed
2 to an adjacent said workpiece so that rotation of said threaded bolt or other
3 threaded member tightens said fastener and said bolt against said workpiece.

TRAVERSE

The Examiner states, with respect to operation of Applicant's invention, that "in the instant case the advancement of the sleeve could be continuous instead of being halted in the middle and then continued.". However, such operation suggested by the Examiner is physically impossible.

As shown in Figs. 3 and 4, as the assembly formed by fastener 1 and sleeve 2 is threaded onto threads 30 of member 26, the sleeve 2 is terminally halted in its advancement onto threads 30 by contact of the threads of the sleeve with the shank portion of member 26. At this point, no further advancement of the sleeve 2 is possible because it is locked against the shank. As such, movement thereof cannot be "continued" as asserted by the Examiner. After the sleeve 2 is locked, fastener 1 may then be further tightened against member 38 to sufficiently torque members 36 and 38 together. As such, only the sleeve is halted, with the fastening member being tightened in a continuous movement from start to finish. This is seen in both claims 1 and 14 wherein "with further relative advancement rotation between said first fastener member and said second fastener member causing said first fastener member to be advanced past said thread/shank interface of said threaded member and contact a said workpiece adjacent said nut assembly." (claim 1 as amended) and "continuing to threadably advance said fastening member on said sleeve until said fastening member is sufficiently tightened against an adjacent one of said adjoining members." (claim 3 as amended).

In addition to the foregoing, claim 1 is amended "for joining two or more workpieces together..." to match the amendment to claim 14 of "fastening adjoining members...". With these amendments, the inventions of claims 1 and 14 should be in the same classification schedule.

As the Examiner's example is not plausible, and the claims are amended so as to be in the same class, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn. In the event the Examiner maintains the restriction requirement, Applicant elects the inventions of claims 1 - 13 and the inventions of newly added claims 19 and 20.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 14 are amended as noted *supra* to assist in overcoming the restriction requirement, and are further amended for clarity and to correct antecedence. Here, at line 11 of claim 1, "second" is corrected to "third". The remaining corrections to claim 1 are for clarity, and add no new matter. With respect to claim 14, amendments thereto are to clarify the claim, and also do not add new matter. The amendments to claim 13 are to correct antecedence with respect to the "workpiece". No new matter is added to claim 13. Claims 19 and 20 are added to more fully claim Applicant's invention, and as stated are within the scope of the election. No new matter is added with respect to claims 19 and 20.

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